

I claim:

1. A method of ascertaining a dynamic attribute of a system comprising:

selecting a variable, the value of which is related to the dynamic attribute to be ascertained;

ascertaining the standard deviation around the true mean of the variable;

choosing an allowable range for the true mean;

choosing a confidence interval;

calculating the number  $N_1$  of samples of the variable that need to be taken so that the confidence interval of the calculated variable is less than the allowable range;

setting a sliding window to collect  $N_1$  samples of the variable to calculate a short term average;

calculating the number  $N_2$  of samples of the variable that need to be taken to minimize the confidence interval of the calculated variable to a pre-determined amount;

collecting at least  $N_2$  samples of the variable to calculate a long term average;

calculating the absolute difference between the long term average and the short term average;

if the difference is greater than the allowable range, indicating that the dynamic system attribute has been positively identified;

if the difference is less than the allowable range, continuing to add to the number samples of the variable for the long term average and continuing to update the sliding window for the short term average.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the system is a wireless network and wherein the system characteristic is whether a user of the wireless network is moving, or has moved.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the variable is signal strength received by the wireless user.